

**PROTECTING CONTENTS OF COMPUTER DATA FILES FROM  
SUSPECTED INTRUDERS BY RENAMING AND HIDING DATA  
FILES SUBJECTED TO INTRUSION**

Abstract

5        Protecting data files from being stolen or  
compromised in a data processing operation having stored  
data in a plurality of data files by receiving user  
requests for access to data files, determining whether  
said requests are unauthorized intrusions into the  
10 requested data files and, responsive to a determination  
that a request is an unauthorized intrusion, changing the  
identification of the requested data files by renaming  
the files. Preferably, the rename should be one which  
does not identify the contents of the file, i.e. the  
15 rename disguises the file contents. Then, it is also  
desirable that the renamed file be moved to a new  
"hidden" directory. In such a case, the renamed file is  
also assigned a covert name which indicates a covert  
location in the new directory. Then, there is provided a  
20 log referencing each renamed file to the covert name of  
the respective file so as to indicate the covert location  
of said file in said new directory.